



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the
NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION to

NAVAL FORCES JOINT TASK FORCE NOBLE ANVIL

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious service during Operation ALLIED FORCE from 31 January to 10 July 1999. The Sailors and Marines of SIXTH Fleet, operating as Naval Forces Joint Task Force NOBLE ANVIL, demonstrated unparalleled courage and fortitude in combat operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and in support of humanitarian relief operations in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Sailors, Airmen, and Marines displayed mastery in all facets of naval combat, including power projection, sea control, surveillance and reconnaissance, mine warfare, amphibious operations, logistics, security, and humanitarian relief during seventy-eight days of the most significant combat action in Europe since the end of the Second World War. SIXTH FLEET forces demonstrated extraordinary success in the tactically responsive employment of TOMAHAWK cruise missiles, resulting in the destruction of almost one-half of all key Yugoslav targets - with no observed collateral damage. Naval aviation was responsible for destroying over 400 tactical ground targets in Kosovo and provided decisive combat power to drive FRY forces out of Kosovo. Unsurpassed naval supremacy in the Adriatic deterred Yugoslav naval forces from engaging in combat operations. Naval amphibious forces courageously conducted security and humanitarian operations in the FRY, FYROM, and Albania. At the completion of combat operations, 1,900 U.S. Marines - the most potent U.S. ground force in the Balkans at the time - entered Kosovo as part of the allied initial entry force. This sustained naval effort was one of the most complex and challenging in the era of modern warfare, and could only have been accomplished by the extraordinary efforts of all hands assigned to SIXTH FLEET. By their truly distinctive achievements, unrelenting perseverance, and unfailing devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of Noble Forces Joint Task Force NOBLE ANVIL reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Richard Danzy
Secretary of the Navy